

Up, up and awaaaaay!

The joys of flying ...



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*O*h, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds - and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of - wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hovering there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air ...

Such are the sentiments of John Gillespie Magee, Jr; when he describes the joy of flying in his famous poem, *High flight*.

In these modern times millions of people travel by air every day. Time and speed have become words that have little meaning in the dictionary of modern travel. However, while almost everybody does it, relatively few really understand how it works.

There are a few important role players (one can almost call them devotees) in this business of flying and travel for whom the joy of flying is not only a mere method of

transportation; faster or more convenient than travel by land or water – it is, for them, a call to the emotions; an appeal to the longing for escape from the bonds of earth (as the poet said), and also the desire for exhilaration.

The pilot

The first (and very important) role player is the pilot.

Although flying isn't actually magic, it is like a really good magic trick. Like plucking a rabbit from a hat, pilots use precision and excellent timing to succeed in pulling off a stunt that is plainly impossible, and yet somehow works. Pilots might disagree with this: that there is nothing magical about aviation.

After all, it was the magic of flight that led them to a career in the skies. Becoming a professional pilot takes a lot of work, but the rewards, both personal and financial, are well worth the investment. Have a look at some of the books on this fascinating subject that SN has in stock, it might just entice someone to take up flying:

629.13 VAN

Van Sickle, Neil David (editor). **Modern airmanship**.- Van Nostrand, 1967.

629.1323 KER

Kermode, Alfred Cotterill. **Flight without formulae: how and why an aeroplane flies ...**- Longman, 1989.

629.1325 MAR

Mark, Robert. **Becoming a professional pilot**.- Tab Bks, c1994.

629.1325 PRA

Pratt, Jeremy M. **The introductory flying lesson**.- Airplan Flight Equipment, c1996.

629.13252 STO

Stokes, Gordon. **Cleared for take-off**.- Luscombe, 1978.

629.13252 WOR

Worthington, G.D.P. **Handleiding vir privaat vlieëniers**.- Flesch, 1968.

The passenger

The other role player(s), without whom the whole effort of flying would be pointless, are the passengers.

The important concern for anybody planning to travel somewhere by air is that they depart on time, that the flight is comfortable, and that they arrive safely. There are those, however, who will find fascination and delight in the flight of an aircraft – the marvel that a machine weighing so much can lift itself into the air and propel itself through the heavens



at mind-boggling speeds. For them SN has a few riveting books on offer. Have a look at:

387.7 BLA

Blatner, David. **The flying book: everything you've ever wondered about flying on airlines.**- Allen Lane, 2003.

613.68 REY

Reyneke, Dreas. **In-flight fitness.**- Orion, 2001.

910.2 HAS

Hasbrouck, Edward. **The practical nomad: how to travel around the world.**- Moon Publ., 1997.

910.2 LAZ

Lazar, Carol. **Tips for trips.**- Spearhead, 2001.

910.285 COO

Cook, Samantha. **The Rough guide to travel online.**- Rough Guides, 2004.

But there are also pitfalls!

Many air travellers are happy to take a seat in a long room with small windows, have dinner, maybe watch a movie, and when they leave they just happen to be in another city.

There are some, however, who are filled with a certain amount of tension, uncomfortable with trusting their lives to what looks like a trick. Flying is one area in which ignorance is definitely not bliss, but rather causes a sense of anxiety. For let's face it: the air is not the natural habitat of our species. There is something blatantly unnatural in humans travelling where angels may fear to tread. There is also the uncomfortable knowledge that you have placed your life in the hands of a pilot and many others who make your flight possible. To counter this fear SN can offer the following titles:

629.1325 BYR

Byrom, James. **Fields of air: triumphs, tragedies and mysteries of civil aviation in Southern Africa.**- Ashanti, 1993.

616.8522 DUC

Duckworth, Tessa. **Flying without fear.**- Sheldon, 1983.

616.8522 YAF

Yaffe, Maurice. **Taking the fear out of flying.**- David & Charles, 1987.

And finally, just for interest's sake, SN also has some interesting titles on the historical aspects of flying. Have a look at these:

387.7 JON

Jones, David Michael Varteg. **The time shrinkers.**- Rendel, 1971.

387.742 HUD

Hudson, Kenneth. **Air travel: a social history.**- Adams, 1972.

629.1303 CRO

Crocker, David. **Dictionary of aviation.**- Bloomsbury, 2005.

629.1309 GIB

Gibbs-Smith, Charles H. **Aeroplane: a historical survey of its origins and development.**- [s.l.], 1960.

